# COMICOLOGY FAN REVIEW

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COMICOLOGY FAN REVIEW is published the first of each month by Doug Fratz, 1810 Metzerott Road, Apt. 14, Adelphi, Maryland 20783, for the purpose of printing critical reviews, reports and news on all activities related to comics fandom. All fanzines for review, convention reports, news, fannish articles, letters, subscriptions and advertising should be sent to Doug Fratz. Subscription rates: 6/$2.00, 12/$3.50; sample copies are 40¢, and back issues are 3/$1. Dealer's rates are 10 issues/$2.00, 25 issues/$3.50, for any combination of present or back issues. This issue is #4/5, and is counted as two issues. Print run: 500.

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# Editorial

by

**Doug Fratz**

## "...never again..."

No, I certainly hope this won't happen again. I can't imagine another month like June happening. Everything had to be done all at once, and I worked 16 hours a day just to get most of it done. The main reason was Unicon II, an sf con I helped run, a report on which may be found in the con report section of this issue. But, honest, it won't happen again, and I do plan to have CFR be a dependable, ontime service to fandom.

I won't go back over how CFR works, as I explained it all in great detail in my last editorial. Some areas of this newszine/reviewzine are already working quite well, and others aren't developing as much as I had hoped. I'm doing quite well with receiving fanzines for review. I'd like to thank all the zine editors who have very quickly helped me make CFR a very comprehensive source for info on new fanzines.

I need more fannish news. It only takes the time it takes to scribble on a postcard to send me the latest developments on your fanzine, convention, or other project. I'll print almost anything, so send it in. I also need more convention reports. If you went to a con on the report needed list, just drop me a line. A few hundred words is all that's needed. And, if you are going to a convention in the next few months, write and tell me you plan a report. In the future, I hope to assign con reports before the con is held.

And, of course, I need more subscribers. Right now I have a paid circulation of almost 200, with 100 more copies being sent out free each issue, and I need at least 100 more subscribers to start breaking even. I don't know how much longer I can keep up the financial burdon. I'd like to thank all the editors who have plugged CFR in their fanzines, and hope that more editors will do so in the future.

Possibly the most important event of this summer will turn out to be the fact that Gary Groth and Mike Catron have taken over The Nostalgia Journal. Gary and Mike will try and make TNJ into a more fannish adzine with better graphics and art than TBG. It remains to be seen if they get the financial support needed to continue the adzine.

The idea has been brought up that CFR could be continued as a department in the new Nostalgia Journal. I'd like to know what the fan response is to this idea. It would possibly free more of my time to work on the editorial side of CFR without taking so much time on the production and promotion end. Let us know what you think.

Anyway, hope you like this issue of CFR. Tell your friends about us.

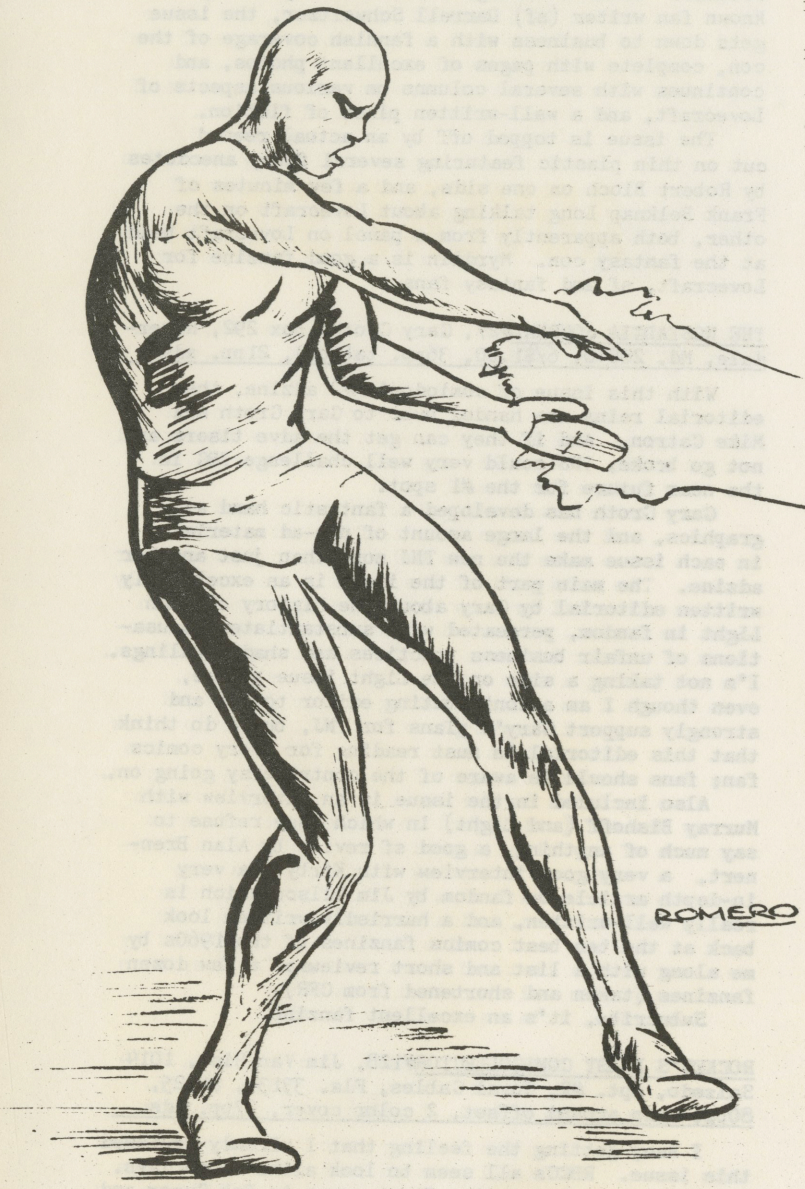
-Doug

# ADVERTISING

Advertising will be accepted in CFR for fanzines and other fan produced items only. CFR is laid out 11x14 for a 23% reduction to 8½x11. Ad prices and sizes are as follows:

Full Page ($15): 11x14 or any size proportional.
Half Page ($8): 4½x12½ (vertical)
9½x6½ (horizontal)
Quarter Page ($4): 4½x6½ (vertical)
9½x3 (horizontal)
Tenth Page ($2): 4½x2½ (horizontal)
READY SHEETS: $5.00/sheet. Send 300-500.

Art Credits this issue:
Cover by Dave Cockrum (courtesy of Gary Groth)
Page 2: Alan James Hanley
Page 3: Ed Romero  Page 6: Ed Romero




# FANZINE REVIEWS

CRIMMER'S, T. Durwood, 104 E. 40th St., Office 114, New York, N.Y. 10016, $3.00, 56pp. wrap-around offset, 2pp. advertising.

Crimmer's, subtitled The Journal of the Narrative Arts, and formally called The Harvard Journal of Pictorial Fiction, (and incidentally, the latter title is much more accurate), is an intensively academic and scholarly journal on comics and film. This issue is all comics, with the single exception of an article on the movie "O Lucky Man!".

Scholarship of this calibre can be either impressive or tedious to me, depending on my mood. While reading Crimmer's, I occasionally found myself forgetting, being a chemist by profession, that I wasn't reading a technical journal.

Overall, though, Crimmer's is quite interesting. There are two very good interviews with political caricaturist David Levine and Harvey Kurtzman (and with honest-to-god footnotes explaining and referencing the questions). There's an article called "The Politics of Comics" which skims overs numerous strips giving brief, strained explanations of their sociological and philosophical backgrounds, and is a classic example of academic overkill. There is a rather lengthy and complex analogy drawn between Superman and puritanism that has to be read to be believed. The article is well written though, and had me almost convinced for a few seconds. A very good article on Harvey Kurtzman's work is followed by another ultimate in strained scholarship called "A Thematic Analysis of Underground Comics", and a good and somewhat less pretentious article on Little Nemo.

My feelings on the invasion of academia into science fiction have already been documented.[1] It seems to have begun in comics fandom.

But since Crimmer's is so far somewhat unique, and has some very interesting features, I can't help but recommend it to anyone with even the slightest degree of scholarly thoughts towards comics. It's a real trip to read.

[1] Thrust Science Fiction, Spring 1976, p. 13.

CINEFANTASTIQUE V5#1, P.O. Box 270, Oak Park, Ill. 60303, $4, 48pp. wrap-around offset on slick paper, 8pp. full color, 2pp. advertising.

Fandom's best movie fanzine continues with another beautiful issue. The cover article is on Harlan Ellison's "A Boy and His Dog", and is made up almost completely of L. Q. Jones and Harlan articulately discussing the concept and execution of the film. Other films spotlighted include Black Moon, The UFO Incident, Bugs Bunny Superstar, and King Kong (in the making). And beautiful color stills from Logan's Run.

Cinefantastique is, as always, a must for movie fans.

ERB-DOM#87, C. E. Cazedessus, Jr., P.O. Box 507, St. Francisville, La. 70775, $2.50, 52pp. wrap around offset, 7pp. color, 5pp. advertising.

Caz has been publishing ERB-dom for as long as I can remember; it's been sixteen years, and it remains the top Burroughs fanzine. This issue features a beautiful cover by Nestor Redondo, with color added by Cliff Bird, three pages of Tarzan daily strips and two pages of the Tarzan Sunday strip (in full color) by Russ Manning and a review of Neal Adam's The Son of Tarzan strip that includes a beautiful pencil sketch by Neal. Articlewise, this issue is mainly composed of an article on the lost cities of Tarzan, partially reprinted from past issues. There is also a horrendous few pages from a John Carter Sunday strip adaption; Caz obviously knew it was bad, since he put at the end "not to be continued".

A must for ERB fans, and even die-hard Russ Manning fans.

VOYAGE#2, C. E. Cazedessus, address above, $1.00, 32 pp. wrap-around offset, 8pp. color, no advertising.

This is a stripzine published by Caz, but it doesn't really come off. There are two continued strips by Cliff Bird with crude and uneven art and color appearing and disappearing at random, an incomprehensible strip by Roland Trenary, also with color drifting in and out. There are a few little nice things, a Jeff Jones drawing, an Eddie Jones centerspread, and some other art and movie stills. But over all, sorry Caz, I can't really recommend it.

GRAPHIC VISIONS#4, Christopher Lomelino, 1843 Brian Lane, Springfield, Ill. 62703, $1.25, 52pp. half-sized wrap around offset, no advertising.

This is an extremely nice little article/artzine. The artwork is uniformly very good, including Caldwell, Day, Kirby, Newton, Ordway,and a dozen more of fandom's most competent illustrators. Rich Morrissey writes an excellent article on the career of comics writer Gary Bates, and Mike Burton does a very good article on Warlock. Other writing includes a nice article on the Dell Tarzan comics, an article on revivals of old superheroes, fanzine reviews, a humorous fiction piece, and more.

Graphic Visions is not an ultra-slick fanzine, but worth the money to almost any comics fan. Try it.

WEIRD FAAN FICTION#3, Charles E. Spanier, 52 Seneca St., Staten Island, N.Y. 10310, 50¢, 50pp. offset and mimeo, no advertising.

Faan fiction. Yea. Ghod how it all brings back the memories. This fanzine is a direct decendent of the Dwight Decker era of fandom, an era I enjoyed very much. Fandom will never be the same.

For those who don't know, faan fiction is fiction written by and about fans. Weird Faan Fiction is a fine example of a faan fiction fanzine, in some ways even better than the old Decker zines (sorry, Dwight).

The artwork throughout is really good, by Larry Lee, Andy Mushynski, and even old Carl Gafford. Charles writes a really nice piece about an old fan who goes to visit an old fan friend who's gone pro in the comics. Jeff Anderson does a really fine story in the classic pulp style featuring fans as pulp heroes and villians. Ralph Alfonso contributes a well written story about a rejected fan artist. And, to top off the issue, Charles Spanier does a really beautiful story after a story by Decker that turns out to be one of the best faan fiction things I've ever read. It has Decker written all over it.

There's also a letter from Decker himself saying that he'll be writing no more faan fiction. Too bad, but the Spanier gang is doing a beautiful job of picking up the slack. Some faan fiction tends to be in-joke stuff (and I hope Charles will write me and let me in on anyone fictionalized in this issue that I didn't recognise), but the best of faan fiction can be fascinating to anyone who's even spent time in fandom, and Weird Faan Fiction fills the requirement superbly. This is must reading for comics fans!

FEM FANTASTIQUE#2, Bill Black, 1515 Bowman Drive, Tallahasse, Fla. 32303, $3.25, 52pp. wrap around offset, two color covers, no advertising.

At the risk of offending a superb artist and editor, Bill Black, I must admit that I don't really care for this, a fanzine that strikes me as immature and trivial.

Fem Fantastique is a girly art fanzine. Much of the artwork is excellent, especially that by Black himself. Bill also does two beautifully drawn strips with totally inane plots. There's also a nice Golden Age sf strip by Fred Guardineer reprinted, if you like Golden Age sf. And nice pieces of art by Bob Powell, Mike Royer, Al Williamson and Wally Wood. But overall, Fam Fantastique is too much of a good thing not done well enough. Sorry, recommended for died-in-no-wool girly art fans only.

MYRDDIN#3, Lawson Hill, 3952 West Dundee Rd., Northbrook, Ill. 60062, $1.50, 36pp. wrap around 8x9½" offset with 2 sided 7 minute/side record, no ads.

Myrddin is an sf/fantasy fanzine, this issue of which is centered around H. P. Lovecraft and the 1st World Fantasy Convention held in Providence last October. After a strange little humor piece by well known fan writer (sf) Darrell Schweitzer, the issue gets down to business with a fannish coverage of the con, complete with pages of excellent photos, and continues with several columns on various aspects of Lovecraft, and a well-written piece of fiction.

The issue is topped off by an actual record cut on thin plastic featuring several funny anecdotes by Robert Bloch on one side, and a few minutes of Frank Belknap Long talking about Lovecraft on the other, both apparently from a panel on Lovecraft held at the fantasy con. Myrddin is a good fanzine for Lovecraft, sf and fantasy fans.

THE NOSTALGIA JOURNAL#27, Gary Groth, Box 292, Riverdale, Md. 20840, 6/$1.00, 36pp. tabloid, 21pp. ads.

With this issue of comicdom's #2 adzine, the editorial reins are handed over to Gary Groth and Mike Catron. And if they can get the adve tisers and not go broke, TNJ could very well challenge TBG in the near future for the #1 spot.

Gary Groth has developed a fantastic hand at graphics, and the large amount of non-ad material in each issue make the new TNJ more than just another adzine. The main part of the issue is an excellently written editorial by Gary about the history of Alan Light in fandom, permeated with substantiated accusations of unfair business practices and shady dealings. I'm not taking a side on the Light issue per se, even though I am a contributing editor to TNJ and strongly support Gary's plans for TNJ, but I do think that this editorial is must reading for every comics fan; fans should be aware of the controversy going on.

Also included in the issue is an interview with Murray Bishoff (and Light) in which they refuse to say much of anything, a good sf review by Alan Brennert, a very good interview with Kirby, a very in-depth article on fandom by Jim Wilson which is really well-written, and a hurriedly written look back at the ten best comics fanzines of the 1960s by me along with a list and short reviews of a few dozen fanzines (taken and shortened from CFR).

Subscribe, it's an excellent fanzine.

ROCKET'S BLAST COMICOLLECTOR#128, Jim Van Hise, 1014 Salzedo, Apt. #2, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134, $1.25, 80pp. wrap around offset, 2 color cover, 27pp. ads.

I keep getting the feeling that I already reviewed this issue. RBCCs all seem to look alike these days.

This issue has a nice front cover by Bob Susor and a really beautiful back cover by Mike Zeck. The features include a good Neal Adams interview, an article on the Black Condor by Ray Miller, a very funny strip satirizing Space:1999, more on Walt Kelly, Larry Bigman on comic art by EC artists, the usual Don Rosa Information Center, Howard Siegel reminiscing about the old days of fandom, George Beahm on Ken Smith, and the other regular features.

RBCC continues to be a very worthwhile fanzine, although I somehow wish it wouldn't aways look the same to me.

PITTSBURGH COMIX AND FANDOM#2, Ben Po ndexter, 827 Anaheim St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219, $1.25, 40pp. wrap around offset, no advertising.

This is put out by by the Pittsburgh Comix Club (much in the same way that Thrust Science Fiction is put out by the UofM), and this issue is highlighted by an excellent interview with Roy Thomas, although it was printed previously as well. The rest of the issue is not as excellent.

The editor, Gary Sassaman, turns out to be a fair artist, but not really great. Cupec does a large portfolio of work, but after a well drawn introduction

piece, he goes downhill with poor proportions and too much shading used inappropriatly. There's a very short tribute to ERB with what appatently is a Kaluta pencil sketch totally ruined by horrid inking (I bet Mike is furious) and another short tribute to Bode. The rest is strips. Tom Norman does a fair strip, Ed Lancaster does a strip that looks like Marty Greim copying George Metzger, and Tom Norman comes back with a pointless two pager about a Confederate sniper.

Gary and crew have a way to go, but they seem to be getting there. Buy it for the Thomas interview.

PITTSBURGH FAN FORUM#17/18, Ben Pondexter, address above, 20pp. offset, 2pp. advertising, 6/$4.00.

Except for an excellent back cover of Man-Thing and Howard the Duck by Howard D. Bender, nothing in this newsletter really stands out. There are several small columns, Howard Siegel on S&S, Pondexter on Pittcon, Ron Kienzie on Thomas's Conan &Mercy Van Slack on herself. I would suggest that the club do their newsletter mimeo or ditto so that they could lower the price.

THE MONTHLY TREK TIMES#1, Gary Berman, Box 6547, Flushing, N.Y. 11365, 75¢, 24pp. wrap around offset, 5pp. advertising.

Someone has finally decided to publish a Star Trek adzine. Unfortunately, 75¢ is a steep price for an adzine; I think Gary made a mistake not going tabloid. I'm also puzzled as to why there are so few ads in the issue. I should think that any editor at all aquainted with ST Fandom could get loads of ads for a new ST adzine. Ah well.

The material in this issue in cludes the usual news column, interview with Roddenberry, fanzine reviews and stills. For die hard ST freaks only.

B. B. COMICS#1, Ben Pondexter, address above, 40¢, 20pp. wrap around 7x8½" offset, no ads.

This contains two comics strips. One is a superhero, Thunderbolt, a 100% formula and cliche strip by Ben Ruiz. The other is a hard to follow cartoony science fiction comedy by Tom Tuttle. Ben shows promise as an artist if he can kick the formulas, and Tom also shows promise as a cartoonist (his back cover is very good). I think maybe they both need writers to back them up here.

THE HEROINE ADDICT#10, Al Tanner, P.O. Box 10956, Baltimore, Md. 21234, $1.25, 36pp. wrap around 6½x9½" offset, no advertising.

Al Tanner is still coming out quarterly with his fanzine completely dedicated to superheroines. There really are alot of fans of superheroines in fandom. The art is all fair to good, with no real standouts this issue, and the writing, all about female comic characters, of course, is divided between news on plans for new superheroine features and articles that tend to lean very heavily towards plot summaries of stories from comics, old and new. The best article was by Scott Gibson on Rose and Thorn; it was the only article with any real depth.

If you tend to follow female comic book characters, this fanzine is for you, but I hope that Al can find some longer more in-depth articles in the future.

ACH SPAKE!#12, Jeff Wasserman, 2108 East 65th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234, no price, 43pp. ditto, mimeo and offset covers, no advertising whatsoever.

This is Jeff's apazine for CAPA-alpha; in general it's not for sale, but I want to review it anyway.

There are two very notable faan fiction pieces here, although one is a true story. It is the story of Tony Isabella's move from NYC back to Cleveland. The other story is the first of a very promising series of stories about a sentient fannish typewriter. It is a potential fannish classic in the making. And throughout are Jeffery's fannish ditto drawings.

I don't know how many copies Jeff has of this, but if you think you may be into fannishness, buy Weird Faan Fiction, and if you like it, write Jeff and beg for a copy of Jack Speaks#12.

THE COMIC WRITER#9, John D. Hemmings, 224 East Mill Road, Long Valley, N.J. 07853, 40¢, 17pp. ditto with offset covers, no advertising.

This is the last issue of TCW, and quite unfortunately, it went out with a whimper, not a bang.

John never achieved a very high level of quality, and this issue is much like the last. The cover is by Rick McCollum, but not one of his better, and the back cover by Karl Kesel is better, but is a little stiff. Inside is a fiction piece that goes on for 2½ pages for a ridulous ending, another piece that seems to end in the middle, and a one pager that reads like the first page of a bad sf novel. There's also a very short report on the DC con.

Even though TCW is not very impressive, I hate to see a fanzine go, and hope that John will stay active in fandom.

FANTASY#1, Paul B. Howley, 140 Pleasant St., Berlin, Mass. 01503, 25¢, 32pp. 5½x7½ wrap around offset, no advertising.

This is an amastrip zine with three strips and a couple one pagers. The first strip by Robert Engman is the start of a typical S&S tale, which while strictly formula with non-slick art, shows the artist to have tremendous potential as a graphic story teller. The breakdowns are very well done, for an amastrip. The second strip is by Bill Morse, and has stiff art and reads like a Warren reject. The last strip is an extremely typical superhero origin strip. The cover, however, by Eileen Cronin is really quite nice.

Fantasy is worth it for amastrip fans who want to check out a nice story break-down job by Engman.

FANTASY TRADER#22, Mike Cruden, 24 George St., Denton, Manchester, England M34 3DJ, try 35¢, 24pp. 6x8½" wrap around offset, 10½pp. advertising.

Mike has been a fan in England since the 60's, and FT is his adzine/articlezine. The lead article is on Jack Kirby,,and there's a very funny cover to go with it. The rest of the issue is ads and a very interesting letter column.

I've been out of touch with British fandom of late; I last was in contact three years ago when I actually attended a con in London. (I probably met Mike there, sorry Mike, I can't remember.) But it's a whole other part of fandom, and if you're interested in finding out about it, FT is a good place to start.

FIGMENT#1, Rick Stoner, 625 Wertz Ave,, Canton, Ohio 44710, 60¢, 24pp. half-sized wrap-around offset, no advertising.

Figment is entirely art and strips by Rick Stoner, and is mostly made up of his cute little bug-eyed-monsters. The first strip is a nice little example of just such a strip. The second is a twist ending strip where it ends up a spaceship has landed on a burning cigarette instead of a planet. Most of the rest of the zine is more cute little monsters. Rick has alot of talent, and if you like cute cartoons this is worth the relatively high price.

THE BIRD-BRAIN#1, R. E. Ferryman, 3240 Eakin Rd., Apt.#9, Columbus, Ohio 43228, 50¢, 20pp. offset, wraparound, no ads, and no color either.

This is Ferryman parodying superhero comics. The art is just good, but somehow I like this strip. I guess I just have a soft spot for satire and parody. If you do too, you may very well like The Bird-Brain, "The most unoriginal superhero ever."

THE COMIC READER#132-134, Street Enterprises, P.O. Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051, 6/$3.50, 32pp. half sized wrap around offset, 5-9pp. advertising.

Jerry and Mike are really doing a superb job keeping up with and printing the pro comics news. If you are one of those fans actively interested in new developments in the comics (what are they?), then TCR is a must. I only hope that someday I can do as good a job with the fannish scene in CFR. (In fact, I may go to halfsized format in the future, it looks so good.)

Issue #133 also has several other features, including a capsule history of Gold Key, a comic strip reminiscent of the 1940s, right down to the little patriotic announcements at the bottom of each page, and an interview with Jim Warren.

WE#106, WSA Program,P.O. Box 135, Bethany, Okla. 73008, 3/$2.00, 24pp. halfsized wraparound offset, 10pp. advertising.

WE is the center of small dealer fandom. It's main purpose is the organization of small dealers and the elimination of consumer fraud in fandom. And, especially considering considering that it's made up of dealers, I find WE extremely fannish and friendly.

Articles include a very fannish piece by a new collector, an article on J'onn J'onzz by old fan turned dealer Mike Robertson reprinted fom Louis Morra's Mind Over Matter, an article on a NJ fan club, and one on TV and movie news.

If you are a dealer or do alot of business with dealers in fandom, WE may very well be valuable to you, and also show you that all dealers in fandom are not Rogofskys.

CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL#2, Scott Tillman, 2410 Wensley, Charlotte, N.C. 28210, 25¢, 4pp. offset, no ads.

Unfortunately, there's not really that much here. There's an article on sf predictions that lists a number of instances when sf writers guess right about the future, a short look at the Canadian comics scene, and a short review of the work of Samual Delaney, and that's about it. The artwork is fair to good, but the layout, done in short little columns newspaper style, is cluttered and confusing.

It may be a good fanzine in the future if Scott can get longer and better articles and provide a less confusing layout. (Price correction: 30¢+13¢ stamp.)

COMPASS#9, Tony Scialis, 1100 Cutspring Rd., Stanford, Conn. 06497, 20¢, 8pp. tabloid, ca 1pg. advertising.

Compass is supposedly bi-weekly, and has a nice well-done (probably learned in high school) newspaper format that gives it alot of potential. There are a number of features here, a short personal view of Asimov, one on James Bond, one on strip collecting, the Bermuda Triangle, undergrounds, Star Trek, Space:1999, and tips on comics buying, as well as some short little columns on various subjects.

Compass isn't really that good yet, but I look forward to future issues.

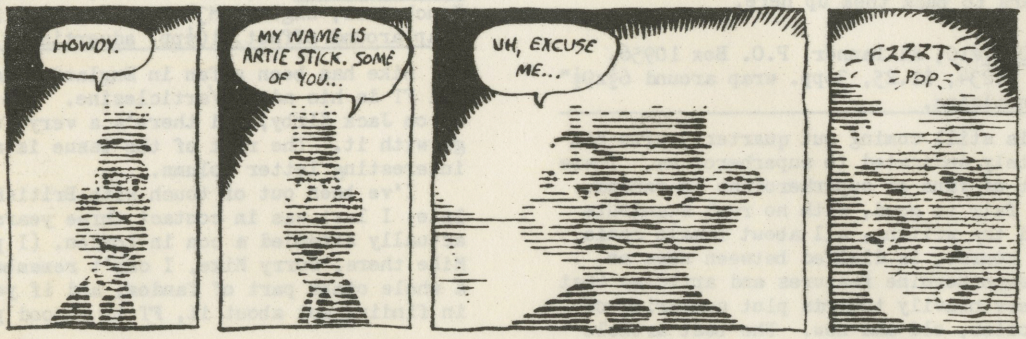
SPACE AND TIME#38, Gordon Linzner, 138 West 70th St., Apt. 4-B, New York, N.Y. 10023, $1.00, 40pp. half-sized wrap around offset, 1pg. advertising.

This is one of fandom's better fiction magazines, and the two pieces this issue, one sf and one fantasy, are really good. The artwork is all good to excellent and includes a Gene Day sf cover. There's also a listing in this and every issue of paying fan markets.

Recommended to all fans of amateur fiction.

BATMANIA#22, Rich Morrissey, 55 Claudette Circle, Framingham, Mass. 01701, $1.00, 24pp. offset, no ads.

Rich is doing a rather good job with Biljo White's classic old Batman fanzine. Headlining this issue is a very good Batman fiction piece, illustrated beautifully by Arlen Schumer. There's also columns of oddities and quotes of Batman, more of a continuing Batman index, a nice long and interesting letter column, and a column by Jay Zilber reviewing recent Batman books. Overall, a very handsome and interesting fanzine of interest to any fan of The Batman.




AFTERWORLD#4, Larry Blake, Box 35, S. Vienna, Ohio 45369, 25¢,24pp. halfsized wraparound offset, no ads.

Afterworld is another of the many little amastrip and artzines that are coming out in droves. Possibly the best thing here is a three page Don Martin-like poem-strip by Blake and Bob Helton. The other strip by Blake shows rather good art, some interesting technique, and a pointless plot. The rest of the issue is individual art pieces, of which only one or two really come off well.

But the price is right, and worth it to amastrip and ama-art fans.

REALM#6, Art Romero, 432 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80903, 75¢, 52pp. 7x10" wrap around offset, no advertising, gold ink on the cover (!).

Artie "Ed" Romero began publishing Realm back in the late 60s. Ed was one of my favorite artists back

then, and he's only improved since.

Realm is now exactly like the best of the non-Crumb underground comics. The various strips are too numerous to mention individually, but especially impressive are those by Romero, Darrel Anderson and Dave Taylor. Some of the strips are a little strange, but the graphics equal the best of the undergrounds, and comix fans should be impressed.

TALES FROM TEXAS#19-21, Citizen Wayne, 2515 Perkins St., Ft. Worth, Texas 76103, 12/$3.00, 12/6/6pp. offset, no advertising.

This is a very nice little newsletter published by the Dallas Area Science Fantasy Society, and containing news and features on boths comics and sf. (I've always been impressed by the fact that sf and comics fans in Texas have closer relations than anywhere else in the country.) In #19, there's an article on the publishers Middle Earth, Steve Utley on Silverberg, an interview with Steve Leialoha, and more, including art by Barry Smith and Leialoha. Each issue has lots of news, both pro and fannish.

Tales of Texas is highly recommended to newszine fans.

SYZYGY#3, Simon Jester Publications, 3558 College Sta. Fredericksburg, Va. 22401, $1.50, 32pp. 8½x10 wrap around offset, no advertising.

Syzygy seems to be a meld between a fan fiction fanzine and a college literary magazine. The zine is all fiction of a light sf and fantasy nature,and ranges from very good to fair; unfortunately, again, I haven't time for an in-depth analysis of the stories. The layout and graphics are very good, so as with Space and Time, if you are a fan fiction lover, pick it up by all means.

GRAPHEX#3, Bill Mutschler, 500 Crestview Rd., Wayne, Pa. 19087, 48pp. halfsized wrap around offset, no ads.

The highlight of this issue is the first part (unfortunately) of a very interesting interview with Doug Moench and Don McGregor. There's also a rather good sf strip by Dave Mowry and Gene Day. Two more strips, one by Mutschler and the other by Rick McCollum, are not as sucessful, the former because of bad art and the latter because of incomprehensible story.

The material is a little uneven, but if you are Moench or McGregor fans, the zine is worth the 80¢ for their interview alone.

CLAY GEERDES' COMIX WORLD#47-52, Clay Geerdes, Box 507, Cotati, Cal. 94928, 2pp./issue, offset, no ads.

Comix World comes out about twice a month with loads of news and samples from the world of underground comics. The layouts are a little strange, but Clay's newsletter is a must for comix freaks.

AFTERWORDS#2, James D. Denney, P.O. Box 202, Bogota, N.J. 07603, 25¢, 4pp. wrap around offset, no ads.

James Denney publishes Afterwords as a sort of suppliment to his excellent Art & Story. It's a nice newsletter, with a good review of New Voyages of Star Trek, and news on various fanzines. But, strangly enough, one page is spent by Jim in heated debate with Mike Burton over whether the New Testament actually states that Jesus Christ is God, and another page is spent replying to Jim Van Hise defending Space:1999. Jim Denny apparently just can't see the extent of the technical and acting inadequacies of the show.

But, to say the least, I found Afterwords interesting.

CAPTAIN GEORGE'S PENNY DREADFUL#378-387, Vast Whizzbang Organization, 594 Markham St., Toronto, Canada, no price, 4pp. halfsized offset, no ads.

Captain George puts out this little reviewzine every week, with short commentaries on a wide range of subjects, sf, movies, mysteries, thestre, radio, TV, etc., etc., etc. If you're interested, write for subscription rates (if any). I think it may be free...

TIM CORRIGAN'S SUPERHERO COMICS#6, Tim Corrigan, 94 MacArthur Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14615, $1.25, 64pp. halfsized wrap around offset, no advertising.

This is Tim Corrigan's well known amastrip zine, proclaimed on the cover to be "The Best Issue Yet of the Best Fanzine Ever". Don't put alot of faith into that blurb. In almost all cases, the art is stiff, malproportioned and/or sketchy, and the plots and writing cliched and/or hack-eyed.

Two strips do stand out slightly above the rest, however. The first is The Spook by Craig Boldman, a nicely done tongue-in-cheek superhero strip. The other is The Protector by Charlie Parker, which is a typical middle sixties superhero strip, with good art, even though the action scenes do come off a bit stiff. Both Parker and Boldman may very well turn into very good comics artists in the future (I have no idea how old they are now).

Tim is starting up a whole group of amateur comics, according to his editorial, and "These are going to be some of the best comics anyone has ever seen, overground or underground". Take that with a whole handfull of salt.

THE DIVERSIFIER#15, A.B. Clingan, P.O. Box 1838, Oroville, Cal. 95965, $1.00, 48pp. halfsized wrap around offset, no advertising.

The Diversifier, like Space and Time, is a fiction fanzine with excellent fiction. They also pay for their fiction. The artwork includes some great stuff by Steve Fabien, Nicola Cuti and Jim McLeod. Again, I wish I had time to review each piece of writing, most is of an sf/fantasy nature, but I don't. I highly recommend The Diversifier for those who like to read or write fiction of that nature.


VAUGHN BODE
BERNI WRIGHTSON
BOB KLINE
DAVE COCKRUM
TOM SUTTON
JEFF JONES
MIKE KALUTA
JOHN FANTUCCHIO
JIM JONES
STEVE FRITZ
DAN ADKINS
A.J. HANLEY
JACK GAUGHAN
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GAVIN ROTH
ALAN HUTCHINSON
BILL SCHELLY
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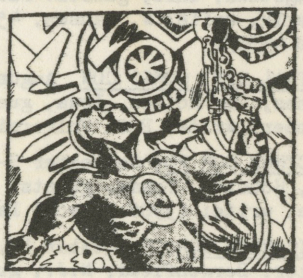
HARRY PURVIS



THE BEST OF COMICOLOGY is forty pages reprinting some of the best fannish and professional material to ever be printed in fandom. It represents four years of fannish effort. Only 500 printed, so hurry, it won't last long for just $1.50!

D. Douglas Fratz
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# Fan News

Don Rex (4825 Chippendale Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45503) is trying to organize a Mid Ohio Comic Club. Anyone interested should write for a free copy of the newsletter.

Lester Boutillier (2726 Castiglione St., New Orleans, La. 70119) is in the second mailing of PHAPA (Pulp Heroes Amateur Press Association), a new apa dedicated to the pulp characters of old - The Shadow, The Avenger, et al. If interested in joining, write Lester.

Fred Burkhart has been providing a very useful service called THE TRAVELLING INFORMATION CENTER, and has been publishing a tabloid called THE PORTABLE FANZINE. The publication is distributed free at various cons, and will list any fanzine sent free to them, along with a description. Copies are availiable for 50¢ mailing charge. Send all fanzines and orders to Fred at2360 Rohs St., Cincinatti, Ohio 45219. Fred will also be publishing a separate tabloid listing undergrounds.

Change of address: Jay L. Zilber, 81 Webster Park, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Christopher Simmons (607 S. P.C.H., Redondo Beach, Cal. 90277) has drawn and published a Howard the Duck poster, b&w 11x17, availiable for 50¢, 3/$1.

Among the people who will be doing work for Mike Friedrich and STAR*REACH PRODUCTIONS are Barry Smith, Joe Staton, Dick Giordano, Len Wein, Jim Starlin and Craig Russell.

Planned for publication August 15th is Gary Groth's sf/art magazine, ALWAYS COME TWILIGHT, with work by Kline, Fujitake, Leialoha, Newton and many more. It will contain short stories, art and strips. The price is just $2.25 before August 15th. Hurry!

# Conventions

1976 MINNEAPOLIS COMIC CONVENTION, August 20-22, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn., guests: unknown, write: Scott Prost, 2837 Hampshire South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55426.

OHIOCON 1½, August 28, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, guests: Paul Gulacy, Doug Moench, Val Mayerik, write: W. Hansen, 45 W. Ravenwood, Youngstown, Ohio 44507.

CENTRAL CITY COMIC CON, August 28-30, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa, guests: Mike Friedrich, Frank Brunner, write: 2306 University, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

SPECTRUM COM 76, September 3-5, Dunffey's Royal Coach Inn, Houston, Texas, guests: Jim Steranko, Pat Boyette, more, write: 13906 Oakwood Lane, Sugar Land, Tx. 77478.

COMIC RAMA CON, September 12, Bergenfield/Dumont Jewish Center, Bergenfield, N.J., guest: Jerry Iger, write: 199 Pleasant Ave., Bergenfield, N.J. 07621.

NEWCON 76, October 22-24, Howard Johnson's 57 Hotel, Boston, Mass., guests: Steranko, Kaluta, Giordano, Kurtzman, Kane, Barks, more, write: Don Phelps, P.O. Box 85, Cohasset, Mass. 02025.

[illegible], November [illegible], Statlet-Hilton, New York, numerous [illegible], write: [illegible] Berman, [illegible] Peck Ave., Flushing, [illegible] 11[illegible].

# Letters

Mike Friedrich
P.O. Box 385
Hayward, Cal. 94543

Thanks again for Comicology Fan Review#3. You may have noticed that I used your PUDGE review from #2 in a TBG ad. Maybe someday you'll even spell my name right. Can't have everything I suppose. [Sorry about the spelling, I usually do it so well. And thanks for quoting me in your ad. Several editors have done it, and I soon may be the most quoted reviewer in fandom!]

Ron J. Frantz
P.O. Box 135
Bethany, Okla. 73008

To begin, I wish to commend you on the very fine job you are doing publishing Comicology Fan Review. I think that we have much in common in that both our fandom activities are directed towards SERVICE. Your publication is providing a very needed and useful service for fandom, and I wish you all the best. This next point I hate to even bring up, but I do feel it needs correction. From your review in CFR#3: "Ron claims a readership of 10,000, and it will be interesting to see if WE can cut into TBG's market successfully." Both these statements are misleading and basically incorrect. Your 10,000 figure comes from the back cover of WE, the Dealers and Publishers Index, and the ads are sold a year at a time, 12 issues, and indeed in one year 10,000 fans will see the ads. The print run of each issue of WE is 1000. As for comparing WE to TBG, it's like comparing apples and oranges. TBG is essentially a PROFIT oriented publication. Alan Light publishes it to make a living. I'm not knocking Mr. Light in any way as he puts out a fine publication. But on the other hand, WE-WSA are non-profit entities. Like your fine publication, it's directed towards service. WE has earned the title of "Champion of the Little Guy" and it continually strives to live up to that title. WE is not interested in any way in "cutting into TBG's ad market". [Sorry about the mistake, and continued good luck with WE-WSA.]

Richard Parker
1662 Rutland, Apt#69
Austin, Tex. 78758

I have enjoyed CFR very much. I look forward to it much more than TBG. I was a little bit disappointed with #1, but after seeing #2&3 I quickly changed my mind. I just hope that you can keep up the good work on such meager pay. [Thanks, Rich. I hope I can keep this up too. I plan to loose between $20 and $30 a month on CFR for the first year or so, until I can get subscriptions up, and publicity costs down (both advertising and sample copy distribution). But my main problem is time. It took well over 50 hours to read and review the almost 40 fanzines in this issue alone. I hope to be able to continue to find at least 60 hours a month to spend on CFR, but it won't be easy.]

Daniel L. Watson
1520 Hedge Road
Champaign, Ill. 61820

I thought at first that CFR would discourage alot of people by cutting down a zine too much, but since #1 it has matured. Someday I may even send you my zine to review. Putting out your fanzine review zine gets you most of the good zines without paying for them. But you are not an authority on zines. If you are, then most other people are too. I think there are some people (innocent to the world) who will take your words for law, even though they are just an opinion of another joe. Also, does your printer

# Convention Reports

## The Columbus Comic & Nostalgia Con

The Columbus Comic and Nostalgia Con was held May 15 & 16 and came off as the best get together yet in "Big C". Not only was it our first two-day con, but the first with some real guests (Berni Wrightson, Mike Kaluta, Jeff Jones and Mr. Index, Don Rosa) and a movie schedule to boot. When you try to compare the 48 hour meet to a Detroit or Pittsburgh con, it comes off a bit light, but for the 500+ comic fans in Columbus (who have spent their hard earned $$ on just one day affairs over the past years), it was heaven.

Con chairman Roy Willis (assisted by Chuck Timm) put together a fairly well run show with little or no major shake-ups during the two days. Fans had plenty of time to meet and talk with the guests, even though a lot of Columbus fandom (made up of what we laughingly call LPA's, and if this wasn't a family zine, I'd decipher that for you) really didn't know how to go about conversing with someone directly involved in the comics business.

Dealers made off well, as is the usual fare in Columbus. In fact, there's an old dealer's fable about not worrying about not selling a particular item at a con, because "you can always unload it in Columbus". Unfortunately, that's more often true than not.

All in all, a good two days and a good start for all of us "hard core" Columbus fans who are trying to shoot for something bigger and better in about ten months.

- Mike Raub

## DETROIT TRIPLE FAN FAIR

The Detroit Triple Fan Fair was held May 28-31 in Detroit. That's about the only good things I can say about the entire mess. Too often, fans tend to hang on to the old and ignore the new. They keep hold of old memories and nostalgia, even though the items bare little good in the light of modern times. Such is the case of the DTFF. I recall my first con, DTFF 1970, as the best con I ever attended. The people, friends and pure magic of it all makes up one of my very fondest fannish memories. It is because of this old feeling that I trudged to Detroit this year for the worst con I ever saw, bar none. Unorganized, yes! Chaotic, yes! Boring, yes, yes! A waste of time, yes!!!! Chairman Greg Theksion managed to put on a comic con that went far beyond the realm of any fannish satire in FANDOM FUNNIES ot TRUE FAT. Movies till dawn lasted barely past midnight. Dealers were sold tables, only to get there at the appointed set-up time and find out them taken over by late comers. Con officials let a large crowd of kids in the rooms as dealers were setting up, resulting in over $500 worth of thefts in less than 30 minutes. On the last day, not only had these rip offs gotten increasingly worse, but someone decided to really blow it and steal some of the first run movies the con was renting.

Unless Detroit fandom can really pull it together and get someone up there who can pull off a con that doesn't look like a freak show on wheels, I suggest they retire the whole DTFF name... for their own sake!

-Mike Raub

## Oakcon

Oakcon was another Detroit area con held on Sunday, June 13th. Now the man behind this one was Steve Sundahl, and to get the picture of the con, you have to get a picture of the man behind it. Steve is a pudgy, loveable sort with a personality like a hand gernade, but we love him anyway. He's the guy who goes to cons and has crazy sales (like unloading 500 GIANT SIZE MAN-THINGS at 1¢ each), so when Steve puts on a con of his own, it should be a good one. Steve put his whole heart and pocketbook onto this one, but I'm afraid to say the results were a little less than great. Coming just two weeks after the DTFF farce, I'm sure most of thefans were sick on the entire con scene and decided to shy away from Steve's meet. Attendance was sparce, Steve's guest failed to show up (Mike Vosburg did make it, as did Ken Steacy) and even his long awaited raffle of FF#1 failed to spark much interest.

I'm hoping that Steve doesn't give it all up. After the DTFF cloud blows over, I'm sure there's enough fan interest left in Detroit for some good con-ing...and Steve's just the guy to put on a good one.

- Mike Raub

## UNICON II

Normally I would not report on a straight sf con in CFR, but since Unicon was, in large part, my convention, and was almost solely responcible for my missing one month with CFR, I'm going to make an exception.

Unicon II was held July 9-11 at the University of Maryland, by the University of Maryland Science Fiction Society. This was the second attempt to hold the con, after the first attempt last fall had to be cancelled because the hotel pulled out of their commitment a month before the con. (Legal matters on this are still being investigated.) And this attempt was very sucessful.

A few months before Unicon II, we suddenly found we weren't the only con in town that weekend, and in fact we would be running against a Star Trek con in D.C. and a comics con a few miles away. Despite this, we were able to get over 400 died-in-the-wool sf fans to attend.

The Guests of Honor were L. Sprague de Camp and Catherine Crook de Camp, two of the nicest people to be found in the sf field. Ted White, of Amazing and Fantastic was Special Guest, and other guests included Frank Kelly Freas, Gardner Dozois, Tom Monteleone and Dave Bischoff. Fred Pohl, unfortunately, had an ear ache and couldn't come.

Unicon had quite a sucessful program, with probably the most unique item being a Ted White Roast on Saturday night. I was roastmaster, and along with seven other friends (or maybe now former friends) of Ted White, all of whom were professional authors, proceded to have a great time tearing Ted apart. As far as I know, this was a fannish first, and the 300 fans who attended enjoyed it very much. There were also panels on Star Trek and sf (Is Star Trek Destroying SF?), and children's sf literature. A panel I planned on sf in the comics didn't happen because several panel members didn't show. Other than that, the program went almost flawlessly. And the all night parties were spectacular.

cont. on pg. 10

Overall, I think Unicon turned out to be one of the best of the small regional sf cons. On the other hand, I spent well over 150 hours working on it in the last month alone, and I don't plan to be in on any future cons to that degree.

- Doug Fratz

# the maryland funny book festival

The Maryland Funny Book Festival was held July 9-11 at the Howard Johnsons Motor Lodge in Wheaton, Maryland. It was a very enjoyable con held by Mark Feldman and John Taylor, although somewhat hampered by small facilities.

The guest of honor was Mrs. Frank Frazetta, who came down with about 20 Frazetta paintings to exhibit. Other guests included Walt Simonson, Archie Goodwin, Al Milgrom, Tom Palmer, Gene Colan, Alfredo Alcala, Ernie Chua and Alex Nino. The program was disorganized or nonexistant, and consisted mostly of fans talking to the artists in the hallways or one of the two small meeting rooms. The only larger room was the very active dealer's room.

John and Mark managed to hold a con totally unregmented that was enjoyed by fan, professional and dealer alike.

- Doug Fratz

(taken from information received from various sources.

WE NEED CON REPORTS FOR CFR ON THE FOLLOWING CONS FOR NEXT MONTH:

Lancaster Comic Art Convention, June 6.
D-Con, June 13-15.
Houstoncon 76, June 17-20.
Casual Con, June 20.
1976 Comic Art Convention (Seulingcon), July 2-6.
Ivan Cook's Comic, ST and SF Con, July 16-18.
Nova Five Comi-con, July 17-18.
Omnicon, July 16-18.
San Diego Comic Convention, July 21-25
Fantasticon 5, July 24-25.

# letters cont. from pg. 8

have high printing rates? You should pull a tidy profit for charging that much for ads and the price of Comicology. [Actually, yes I do have to endure high printing rates. The best printer I can now use charges me $25.40/11x17 page. I'll do fine with a paid circulation of 3-400, but not yet. I live near Washington, D.C., an area not known for low priced printers. As to my reviews, I have started to look at the good points when possible, and I suppose in that way CFR is maturing. I'm trying to establish a consistant record, so that my readers can get a feel for how I review, what I like, etc. I don't really worry about my readers being too naive to understand that. As for my authority to review fanzines, I've probably read about 1000 to 1500 fanzines in the last decade, and I'll try to make my reviews as intelligent and insightful as time and energy allows.]

# FANZINES for sale

D. Douglas Fratz
1810 Metzerott Rd. Apt. D
Adelphi, Md. 20783

Captain Georges Comic World

| | |
|---|---|
| #6(Buck Rogers) | $2.00 |
| #7(Superman) | $2.00 |
| #8(Rime of Ancient Mariner Art) | $1.50 |
| #13(Grok Issue) | .75 |
| #14 (Early Newspaper) | $1.00 |
| #19(Little Orphan Annie) | $1.00 |
| #20(Walt Kelly, etc) | $1.25 |
| #22(Captain Marvel) | $2.50 |
| #23/24(Sub-Mariner,Capt.America) | $3.50 |
| #25/26(Silver Star by Stanley Pitt!) | $6.00 |

Captain George's Whizbang

| | |
|---|---|
| #5(Flash Gordon) | $1.00 |
| #6(Buck Rogers) | $1.50 |
| #7(Prince Valiant) | $1.00 |
| #11(Terry and the Pirates) | $1.00 |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Mutt and Jeff | $1.00 |
| Hal Foster's Prince Valiant | $2.00 |
| The Movies#1 | $1.00 |

The Monster Times

| | |
|---|---|
| #1(Wrightson strip) | $3.00 |
| #3(Todd,Finlay) | $1.50 |
| #8(All Hammer Issue!) | $5.00 |
| #10(EC Issue!!) | $5.00 |
| #13(Spider-Man Issue!) | $5.00 |
| #14,#15 | $1.50 |
| #19,#20,#21 | $1.00 |

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Rocket's Blast Comicollector#78-80
Nebulous#1(S.Buscema, Adkins, Cockrum, etc)
Graphic Fantasy#2(Manning,Royer,Wood,color!
Weird Graphic Fantasy#3(Josburg,etc,color!)
Fandom's Agent#1(Shores)
#8(Fantucchio,Hogarth)
Differo#1(Swan,M.Severin)
Infinity '73 Program Book(Adams,Kubert)

50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢@50¢

The Buyer's Guide#19-21,23-25,27-35,42,43, 63,67-83,85,86,89-95,103-106,110-120
The Immortals#1(Simonson,etc.)
Comicology#5,6(Sutton,Fritz,Wrightson, Jones,Kaluta,etc.)
Thrust Science Fiction#2-6(Jones,Kaluta, Adkins,Bode,Cockrum,Hickson,etc.)
Fandom's Agent#2-5,7
Bang!#11(Spanish Fanzine!!!)
Alternatives#9
Guts#1-3(Mark Evanier and friends)
Fantastic Fanzine Newsletter#8(Black
#9(Cockrum)
Michigan Messenger#1(Buckler)
Muthaload#18(Stan Lee Interview)

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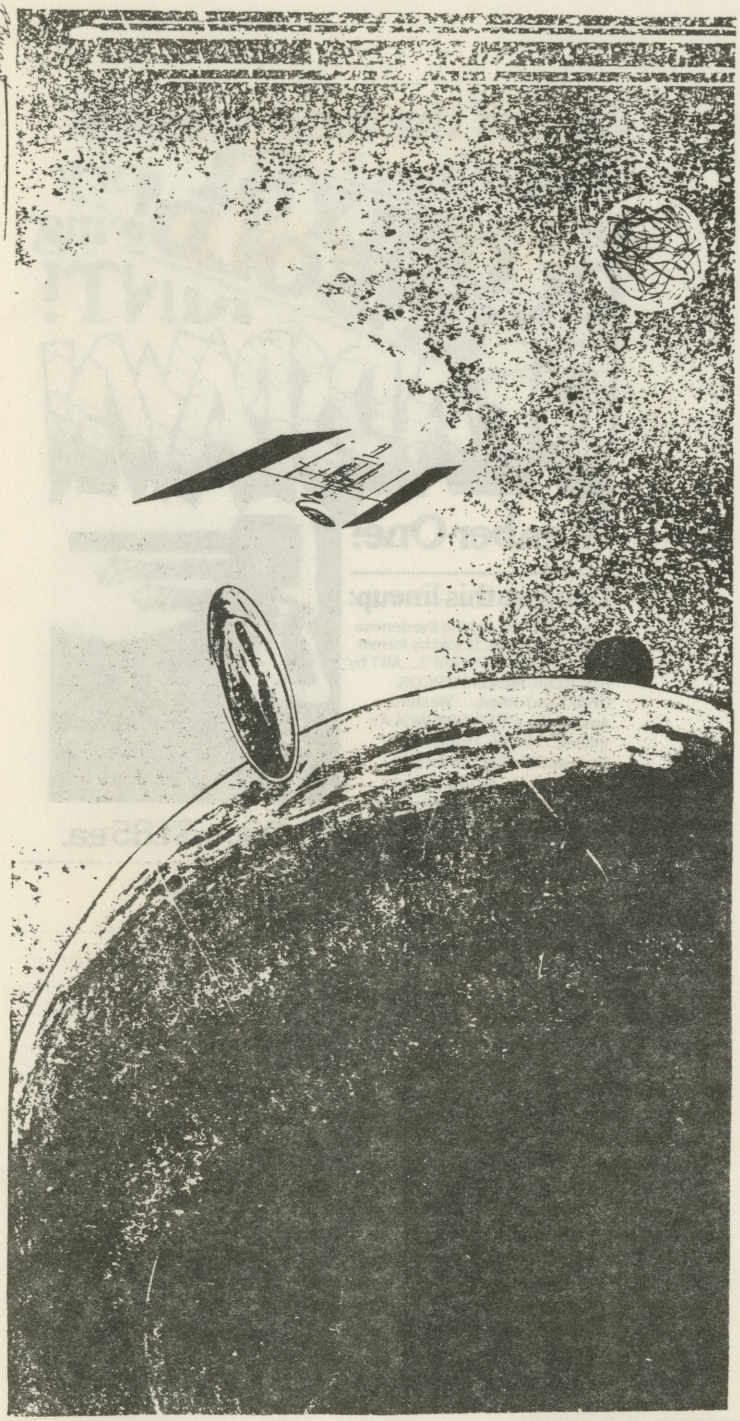
The Wigtonian#1(Hanley cover)
Comic News#4(Dubay cover)
Wantlist#1(Fantucchio cover)
Unicon Program Book(Gaughan cover)
The Journal#4
Poor Richard's Adzine#1(color cover)
Wipe-Out#3-5(Cockrum)



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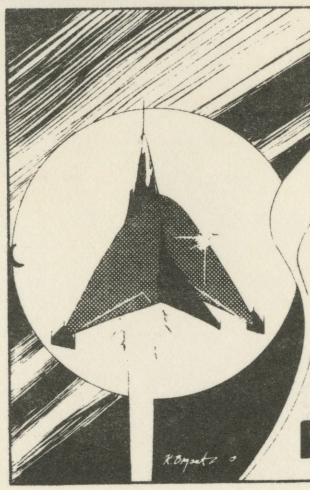

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